

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

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P R 091251Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2178

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

CNO WASHINGTON DC

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

S E C R E T MANAMA 0661

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : PINS, PINT, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN SECURITY DECREE

REF : MANAMA 0654

1. JUNE 9 I FOUND INFORMATION MINISTER MOAYYED RELAXED, OR AT LEAST PRETENDING TO BE, ABOUT JUNE 8 GOVERNMENT/ASSEMBLY CONFRONTATION ON SECURITY DECREE. HE SAID GOVERNMENT FULLY INTENDS TO DISCUSS DECREE IN ASSEMBLY SOMETIME THIS MONTH AND INDICATED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT ASSEMBLY OPPONENTS OF DECREE COULD NOT MUSTER THE 22 VOTES REQUIRED TO DEFEAT IT.

2. BAHRAINI WEEKLY AL-MAWAKEF CAME OUT JUNE 9 FEATURING DECREE PROBLEM UNDER HEADLINE "MOST DANGEROUS SESSION OF SECRET

SECRET

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY". LEAD ARTICLE BY EDITOR AL-MADANI, WHO IS

ASSEMBLY SECRETARY AND MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBER CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS BLOC, IS CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF JUNE 8 MEETING. ARTICLE NOTES GOVERNMENT TRIED TO LOBBY RELIGIOUS BLOC MEMBERS INTO SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO HOLD SECRET SESSION IN WHICH GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK ASSEMBLY'S CONCURRENCE IN POSTPONING DEBATE UNTIL NEXT FALL ON THE PROMISE OF FURTHER GOVERNMENT STUDY (I.E. LIBERALIZING AMENDMENTS) OF DECREE. MADANI CLAIMS RELIGIOUS BLOC DEPUTIES REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT TO GOVERNMENT OR TO DISCUSS ISSUE EXCEPT IN ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

3. THERE IS AS YET NO SUPERFICIAL EVIDENCE OF UNREST OR PUBLIC AGITATION OVER THIS ISSUE.

4. MOAYYED TOLD ME THAT THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MISSING IN PARIS (MANAMA 0655) HAD RETURNED UNEXPECTEDLY FOR JUNE 8 SESSION. THIS SWELLING OF THE RANKS OF THE OPPONENTS OF THE DECREE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE INDICATION OF HOW SERIOUSLY THEY TAKE THE ISSUE, MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT FRIGHTENED THE GOVERNMENT JUNE 8.

5. COMMENT: IT IS UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF SOME OTHER PRESSING BUSINESS WE HAVE WITH GOB, BUT I EXPECT CABINET TO REMAIN PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS ISSUE FOR NEXT WEEK OF SO IN ANTICIPATION OF HAVING TO FACE ASSEMBLY DEBATE.
TWINAM

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NNN

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